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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT Directive to Police on Enforcement of Currency Reform

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The following provisional decree was in draft form as of June 1948. It was drawn up by the Central Administration of the Interior (GAI) for presentation to the SMA. Although in part outdated by the subsequent currency exchange, this information is believed to be still of interest for the references to the Deutsche Mark.

Draft

TO all the Heads of the Laender Police Authorities and the Police President of Greater Berlin

Subject: Police Measures to Guarantee the Execution of the Currency Reform.

By Order No. 111 of the Commanding Officer of the SMA, dated 23 June 1948, the currency reform in the Soviet Zone of Occupation and in Greater Berlin has been enacted.

Article 14 of this Order gives the GAI the responsibility for taking the necessary measures against all offenders against Order No. 111 and associated decrees promulgated by the German Economic Commission.

In view of this authorization, the following regulations are hereby transmitted to all police units of the Soviet Zone of Occupation and of Greater Berlin.

1. Persons who commit an offense against the provisions of Art. 14, para. 1 and 2, will be prosecuted according to the following legal procedure.

a. The falsification and copying of the special coupons will be regarded as counterfeiting and imitating of banknotes. The penalties in Para. 146 ff. of the Penal Code on counterfeiting will therefore be applicable.

b. According to Art. 14, para. 2, the circulation and introduction of Deutsche Marks will be regarded as detrimental to the national economy. Para. 1 of Order No. 160 of the Commanding Officer of SMA, dated 3 Dec. 1945, will apply in these cases.

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The accepting of paper money not bearing the special coupons or the accepting of Deutsche Marks as legal tender in the Soviet Zone of Occupation or in Greater Berlin will also be regarded as detrimental to the national economy. In the same manner, Order No. 160/45 will be applicable.

All actions serving to circumvent the decrees which have been or are to be promulgated by the German Economic Commission on the subject of currency reform are also seriously detrimental to the national economy. In prosecuting these offenses, besides the provisions of the Penal Code, Section IX #27 of the decree of the German Economic Commission, dated 21 June 1948, concerning the penalty for false declaration in connection with the execution of the currency reform, and also in appropriate cases Order No. 160/45 will be adhered to.

2. Those units of the police assigned to the prosecution of the punishable offenses listed under para. 1 (above) will press proceedings.

The specialists in these units will carry out the necessary investigations immediately.

3. All incidents of punishable offenses listed under para. 1 (above) are to be reported to the GAI, Section K, by teletype.

4. The police units are required to assist the appropriate authorities in obtaining the necessary evidence for the carrying out of Section V #12 of the decree of the German Economic Commission of 21 June 1948.

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Comment: It is of interest to note that this draft is addressed to the heads of the State Departments and the Police President of Greater Berlin, and is intended to apply to the Soviet Zone of Occupation as well as all of Greater Berlin.

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